MangaBox

Translated by Abby Lehrke
Adapted by Alexandra Swanson
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CHAPTER 44: ORDER

ZERO

WRITTEN BY
SEIMARU AMAGI

ART BY
HAKUS

ORIGINAL STORY
KOEI TECMO GAMES

THIS STORY IS FICTIONAL, AND COMPLETELY UNRELATED TO REAL PEOPLE, GROUPS, OR EVENTS.

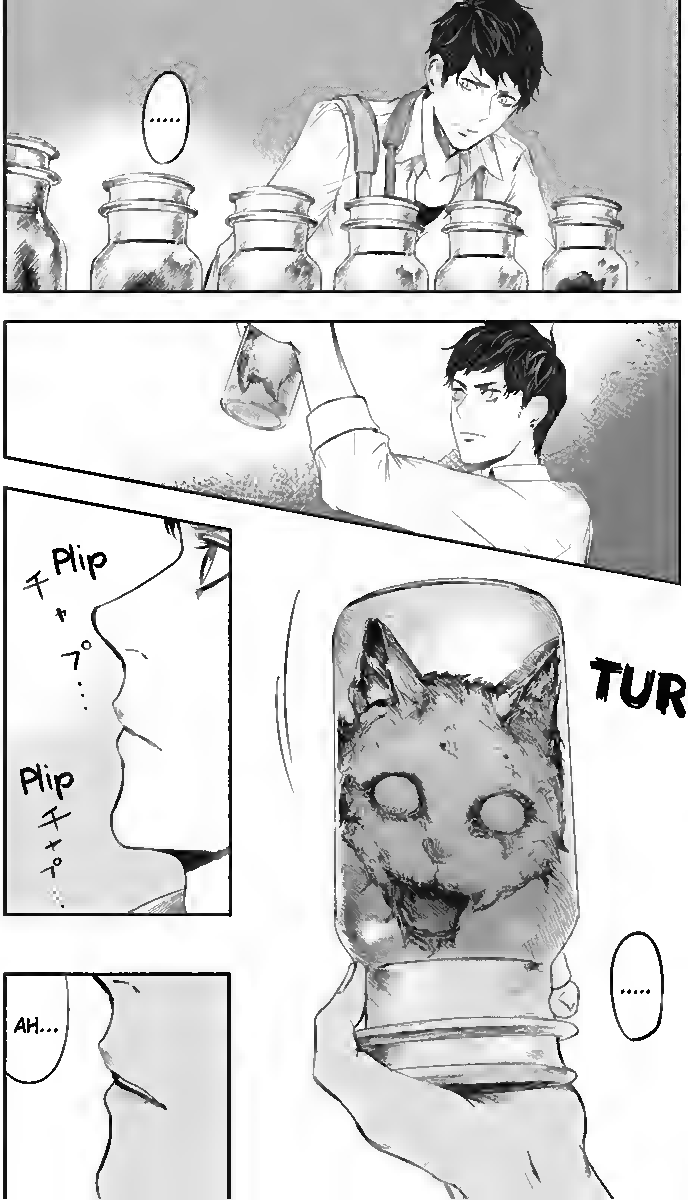
.....
PLEASE, ELUCIDATE FOR US, PROFESSOR KOUTARI.
I WILL.
THERE'S AN ORDER TO ARRANGING THESE JARS OF ORGANS.
THE HEAD AND THE TAIL....
...ARE THE TWO BOTTLES THAT SYMBOLICALLY CONVEY TO US THAT THERE IS INDEED AN ORDER HERE.

IN OTHER WORDS, IF YOU EXEMPT THE HEAD AND THE TAIL...
...YOU CAN LINE UP THE ORGANS IN THEIR PROPER ORDER.
THE TONGUE, BRAIN, HEART, AND THE GUTS.
HUH? OH!
CATS HAVE FOUR LEGS, SO THE TONGUE COMES FIRST!
IN-DEED.
IF WE START FROM THE LEFT AND LINE THEM UP IN THE SPACE BETWEEN THE HEAD AND THE TAIL...
...I BELIEVE THAT IF WE READ OFF THE NAMES OF THE ORGANS ENCASED IN FORMALDE-HYDE, WE'LL GET SOME SORT OF MESSAGE.

FOR A PERVY PROFESSOR.
HUHH... NOT BAD.
.....
I SEE...
EVEN IN A DO-OR-DIE PLACE LIKE THIS...
EXCUSE ME?!
HAZAWA-KUN... IF WE MANAGE TO LIVE THROUGH THIS, GET READY TO LOSE COLLEGE CREDITS.
.....
STILL... I FEEL LIKE THAT'S NOT ALL, HERE.
THERE'S STILL SOMETHING THAT BOTHERS ME.
YOU MEAN... THE HEART AND BRAIN?

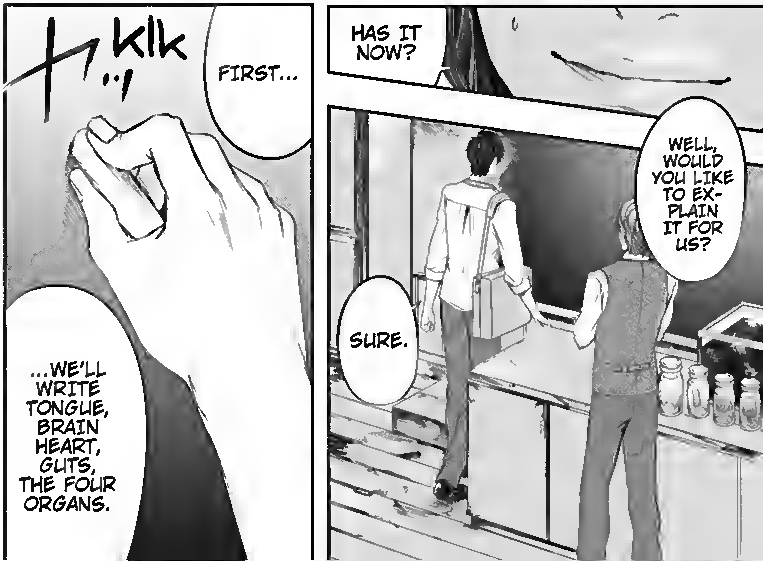
YES.
ANATOMY ISN'T MY SPECIALTY, BUT WHAT'S BOTHERING ME IS THAT ONLY THE LOWER PART OF THE HEART IS HERE.
AND THE BRAIN ALSO HAS TWO PARTS, THE CEREBELLUM AND THE BRAIN-STEM. BUT FROM WHAT I SEE HERE, ONLY THE UPPER PART OF THE BRAIN HAS BEEN PRESERVED.
WHAT? REALLY? YOU REALLY KNOW YOUR GROSS STUFF...
THE HEART AS A COMPLETE ORGAN SHOULD ALSO HAVE THE UPPER PORTION THAT CONSISTS OF THE ASCENDING AORTA, THE PULMONARY ARTERIES, THE SUPERIOR VENA CAVA, AND THE DESCENDING AORTA, WHICH THEN CONNECT TO CARDIAC MUSCLES
BUT WHAT WE'RE LEFT WITH HERE, IS JUST THE INFERIOR VENA CAVA, THE LEFT ATRIUM, AND RIGHT ATRIUM OF THE HEART.
NATU-RALLY.

AND SO...
...DOES THIS, TOO, MEAN SOMETHING?
.....
Hmm.
OF THE FOUR ORGAN JARS...
TWO ARE HALVED...


.....
チャプ…
Plip
Plip
チャプ…
TURN
.....
AH...

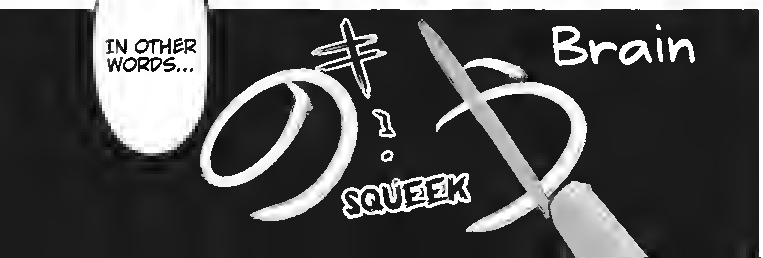
SO THAT'S IT...

I'M GLAD YOU BROUGHT THAT UP, PROFES-SOR.
SOME-HOW, IT'S MADE ME FIGURE OUT THE ANSWER TO THIS RIDDLE.
HM?
?!


klk
FIRST...
...WE'LL WRITE TONGUE, BRAIN HEART, GUTS, THE FOUR ORGANS.
HAS IT NOW?
WELL, WOULD YOU LIKE TO EX-PLAIN IT FOR US?
SURE.

...?
.....
Tongue Brain Heart Guts
Shita Nou Shinzou Chou
したのう しんぞう ちょう
LET'S WRITE THEM OUT IN HIRA-GANA
THE FOUR INTERNAL ORGANS

NOW, PROFESSOR KOUTARI NOTED THAT THE HEART ONLY CONSISTS OF THE LOWER HALF, AND THE BRAIN ONLY HAS ITS UPPER PORTION...
...AND IF WE LOOK AT THE WORDS IN HIRAGANA, THE ANSWER BECOMES CLEAR


IN OTHER WORDS...
Brain
SQUEEK

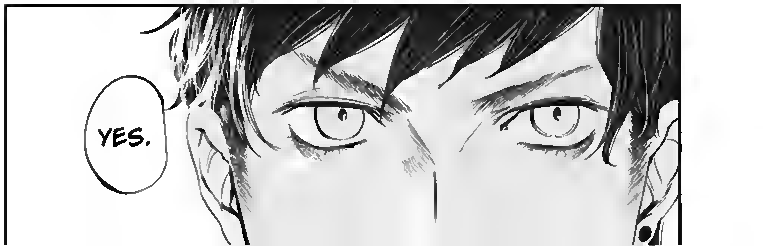
Shita No Shinzou Chou
したの心臓ちょう
THE FIRST HALF OF "BRAIN"...
...AND THE LAST HALF OF "HEART"...
...CAN BE CROSSED OUT AND THAT'S THE MESSAGE OF LEAVING ONLY HALF OF EACH IN THE FORM-ALDEHYDE
.....
OH, I SEE...
BUT... WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?
AND THEN WE HAVE...
...THE CAT'S HEAD.

THE CAT'S HEAD ...?
BUT IT'S JOB IS DONE, ISN'T IT?
BUT WHY WAS IT PUT IN THE JAR UPSIDE DOWN?
!
THIS IS JUST THE SORT OF RIDDLE...
...THAT MAKES YOU WONDER... WAS IT REALLY JUST A COINCI-DENCE?
...!
WHAT IF WE THOUGHT OF IT AS A HINT AT SOLVING IT, IN-STEAD?
FSH
SO THAT'S IT...!!

SHOOF
YOU'VE GOT IT.
TOK
THIS WAS NO COIN-CIDENCE.
TOK
TOK
TOK
AND IF WE SOLVE THIS, WE WILL FIND THE HIDDEN ANSWER OF THIS RIDDLE.

...!!
IF WE REVERSE THE JAR LINEUP ENTIRELY, WE FIND...
Under the sculpture
ちょうぞうのした
Chouzou no shita
...THE ANSWER ...
...TO THIS RIDDLE.

OH...!
I GET IT NOW...
...!!
UNDER...
...THE SCULP-TURE!!


YES.

THERE'S GOTTA BE A SCULPTURE OR TWO IN THE ART CLASSROOM IN AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL!!
THEN MAYBE IT'S IN THE ART CLASSROOM!
WAIT JUST A MINUTE! WAI-
ALL RIGHT! LET'S GO OVER THERE AND CHECK!!
I BET THAT'S IT! THERE WAS TOTALLY ONE IN MY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL!!
...I THINK THERE'S ONE...
Fwshk
A STATUE ...

I THINK IT'S REFERRING TO THIS.
HM?

THERE IT IS!

LOOK HERE.
RIGHT AT THE FRONT ENTRY STAIRS OF THE SCHOOL IS A STATUE OF HISTORICAL EDUCATOR, KINJIRO NINOMIYA.
Building Front

WHICH PLACE IS THE RIGHT ONE, I WONDER... DO WE HAVE TO GO TO BOTH?
YOU'RE RIGHT...
HEY...

MAKE A SUGGES-TION ...?
CAN I...

WHY DON'T WE SPLIT INTO TWO GROUPS?
TO BE CONTINUED...